NOTE XXXII.

ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM THE ISLANDS OF FLORES, SUMBA AND ROTTI

BY

J. BÜTTIKOFER.

Dr. H. ten Kate, to whom we are already indepted for previous zoological collections made on his recent travels through the Flores- and Timor-group of Islands [1]), sent, in September and November last, a number of birds from Flores, Sumba (Sandelwood) and Rotti, the latter being a small island near the western end of Timor. Unfortunately the birds, a great number of which were preserved in alcohol, are all destitute of any annotations as to date and color of soft and naked parts, but the localities being very interesting, I venture to give a list of the birds collected on the different islands.

A. Birds from Flores and the neighboring Islands of Groot Bastaard and Adonara.

1. *Spizaëtus limnaëtus* (Horsf.).

Spizaëtus cirratus (part.) Schl. Mus. P.-B., Revue Accip. p. 52.

One specimen, with the exception of back, wings and tail entirely white. Collected at Sika, south-east coast of Flores.

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1) See my note in N. L. M. XIII, p. 210 (1891).

2. *Chalcococcyx malayanus* (Raffl.).

An adult specimen from Sika (Flores).

3. *Sauropatis chloris* (Bodd.).

Dacelo chloris Schl. Mus. P.-B., Revue Alcedines, p. 32.

An adult bird from Groot Bastaard, a small island situated off the north-east coast of Flores, and a somewhat younger specimen from the island of Adonara on the east coast of Flores.

4. *Collocalia esculenta* (L.).

An adult bird from the island of Samao. The two nestlings, mentioned in N. L. M. 1891, p. 210, also belong to this species.

5. *Pachycephala fulvotincta* Wall.

An adult male from Adonara.

6. *Cinnyris pectoralis* (Horsf.).

An adult male from Groot Bastaard.

7. *Anthothreptes malaccensis* (Scop.).

Two adult males from Sika, and one from Adonara.

8. *Tropidorhynchus neglectus* Bütt.

A half-grown specimen from Sika, without any knob at the base of the bill, and the legs pale flesh-color. Plumage as in the adult bird.

9. *Gracula venerata* Bp.

Three adult specimens from Koting (Flores).

10. *Oriolus broderipi* Bp.

Two adult males from Koting (Flores).

11. *Parus cinereus* Bonn. & Vieill.

An adult specimen from Sika (Flores).

12. *Acanthiza tenkatei*, n. sp.

General color above pale olive-brown, some of the feathers of the crown tipped with pale fulvous, lesser wing-coverts like the back, median and greater coverts dusky brown, edged with the color of the back; quills dusky brown, the primaries narrowly edged on the outer web with whity brown, the secondaries with edges of pale olive, especially the innermost, which are, moreover, waved with dusky cross-bars when seen under a certain light. A patch of long, silky white feathers on each side of the rump, the latter and the upper tail-coverts tinged with rufous, the tail-feathers ashy brown on the basal, black on the terminal half, except the gray tip which has a large white spot on the inner web. The whole tail waved with dark cross-bars when seen under certain lights. Lower surface, including the cheeks, under wing-coverts, inner edge of the secondaries ashy white, more silky white on abdomen and under tail-coverts, thighs white, intermixed with brown feathers, especially on the outside, bill and feet blackish brown. Tarsus plain, with only one scale near the root of the toes.

Wing 5 cm., tail (incomplete) 3,6, culmen 0,9, tarsus 1,5.

Hab. Flores.

The described specimen is, unfortunately, the only representative of this species and at the same time of a genus which hitherto was only known from Australia. Its nearest allv seems to me to be *A. uropygialis* Gould, a species which is not represented in the Leyden Museum, but which has the base of the tail-feathers tawny rufous instead of ashy brown. I have much pleasure in naming this new species after its discoverer, Dr. H. ten Kate.

13. *Munia propinqua* (Sharpe).

Uroloncha propinqua Sharpe, Cat. Birds Br. Mus. Vol. XIII, p. 368.

An adult bird from Sika (Flores). Dr. Sharpe, in his above cited Catalogue, remarks that the specimens from Flores differ from the widely spread *M. molucca* by the want of the black barrings on the sides of the breast, which parts thus form an indistinct white collar, to which I may add that it is only the anterior part of the sides of breast which is left entirely white. The Celebes birds are said to be intermediate, i. e. less barred than those from the Moluccas, but more than the Flores birds, and are mentioned under the head of *M. propinqua*. The present specimen, as well as a Flores specimen in the Museum collection, really show the characteristics pointed to by Dr. Sharpe, characters still more pronounced in our two adult specimens from Sumbawa and another from Timor. All our eight adult Celebes specimens (only North Celebes) and those from Sula seem to me to stand nearer the Moluccan than the Flores and Timor birds, some specimens from Amboina and another from Ceram being as white on the sides of chest as those from Celebes, while none of the latter is as white as the Flores birds. It may be that this is not the case with birds from South Celebes, but all our specimens from the North will certainly be better enlisted with *M. molucca*.

B. BIRDS FROM THE ISLAND OF SUMBA OR SANDELWOOD.

As far as I am aware, Dr. ten Kate is the first who sent zoological collections from this in a certain sense out-of-the-way island. The 32 species of Sumba birds we received, prove the identity of the ornis of Sumba with that of Flores.

1. *Astur torquatus* (Temm.).

Nisus torquatus Schl. Mus. P.-B., Revue Accip. p. 91.

An adult bird of small size, probably a male, with a very broad rufous collar on the hind neck.

2. *Milvus affinis* Gould.

Milvus migrans (part.) Schl. Mus. P.-B., Revue Accip. p. 126.

Two adult specimens.

3. *Sauropatis chloris* (Bodd.).

Two specimens.

4. *Pitta concinna* Gould.

An adult specimen.

5. *Oriolus broderipi* Bp.

Five specimens.

6. *Mirafra parva* Swinh.

Three specimens. They are only distinguished from the very closely allied Australian form *M. horsfieldi* Gould by the darker color of the upper surface, i. e. the head, hind neck and back, while in size they are equal to the five specimens representing the former species in our collection.

7. *Anthus rufulus* Vieill.

Anthus medius Wall. P. Z. S. 1863, p. 488.

Three specimens.

8. *Acrocephalus australis* Gould.

One specimen.

9. *Cisticola cisticola* (Temm.).

Three specimens.

10. *Pratincola caprata* (L.).

An adult male.

11. *Myiagra rufigula* Wall.

Two specimens.

12. *Terpsiphone affinis* (Blyth).

Four adult males with the tail-feathers entirely white and also the quills, the latter with the exception of the tips, which are black.

13. *Alseonax latirostris* (Gray).

One specimen, the first instance, I believe, of the occurrence of this species as far east as the Flores-group of Islands.

14. *Culicicapa ceylonensis* (Swains.).

One specimen, probably not fully adult, having some yellow feathers on the gray throat. For the first time recorded from the Flores-group of Islands.

15. *Artamus leucogaster* (Valenc.).

Three specimens.

16. *Artamides floris* Sharpe.

A nestling in very interesting plumage, each feather on head, back, upper wing-coverts, throat and chest being broadly tipped with white, and having before the white tips a subterminal spot of black, giving the bird the appearance of being banded across with white and black. All the quills are broadly tipped and edged with white of a fulvous tinge, the tail-feathers with pure white. The rump is nearly pure white, with but few indications of dark cross-bars; breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts pure white. A broad stripe below the eye, extending from the base of the upper mandible to the ear-coverts, black, very broad at base, feet and claws yellowish white.

17. *Lalage timoriensis* (S. Müll.).

Two adult males, a female and a young bird.

18. *Dissemurus platurus* (Vieill.).

An adult bird, wanting the elongated tail-feathers.

19. *Tropidorhynchus neglectus* Bütt.

Two adult specimens, both fully agreeing with the types from Sumbawa and Flores, described in N. L. M. 1891, p. 213.

20. *Zosterops aureifrons* Wall.

One specimen.

21. *Dicaeum wilhelminae*, n. sp.

This species, of which the present collection contains only an adult male, is very closely allied to *D. sanghirense* Salvad., from which it differs, however, by its larger size.

Adult male: Whole upper surface, including the sides of the head, cheeks, ear-coverts, sides of neck, lesser and median wing-coverts, upper tail-coverts and tail steel-blue with a faint purplish gloss; quills black, perceptibly glossed with green, the secondaries and greater wing-coverts edged with glossy blue. Under wing-coverts pure white, the inner edge of the quills dingy white. Chin white, the rest, throat and chest scarlet. This scarlet patch is edged below with glossy bluish black; a stripe of the same color, not well defined, runs down the centre of the breast and is flanked on both sides by dingy white, which latter color occupies abdomen, vent and under tail-coverts; sides of body dark ashy gray; bill and feet black.

Wing 54 cm., tail 26, culmen 10, tarsus 13.

Hab. Sumba.

I am much pleased to name this species after her Majesty our youthful Queen Wilhelmina, who, on her recent visit to the Leyden Museum, graciously agreed to accept this dedication.

22. *Stigmatops ocularis* (Gould).

Meliphaga (Ptilotis) limbata S. Müll. Verh. Nat. Gesch. Land- en Volkenk. p. 162.

Stigmatops ocularis Salvad. Orn. Pap. II, p. 323.

Glycyphila ocularis (part.) Gadow, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. Vol. IX, p. 213.

Ptilotis limbata Gadow, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. Vol. IX, p. 236; pl. VII, fig. 2; — Bütt. N. L. M. 1891, p. 214.

Two specimens, one of which is a young bird, having chin, cheeks and a moustachial streak yellow instead of ashy gray.

Count Salvadori (op. cit. p. 324) has already pointed to the identity of S. Müller's *Meliphaga limbata* with *Stigmatops ocularis* (Gould), and a careful comparison of our eleven typical specimens of *S. limbata* with four *S. ocularis* from Australia and two from Aru convinced me that the first are not specifically distinct from the second, though Dr. Gadow even placed them in different genera. One might say that, as a rule, the throat in the specimens from Australia is ashy brown, while it is more ashy gray in the Timor specimens. There are, however, amongst the first, some specimens with the throat as gray as in Timor birds, and I am not able to find, either in coloration or in size, any difference, important enough to separate them even subspecifically. Dr. Gadow mentions as *P. limbata* specimens from Bali, Lombok, Flores and Timor, but he does not say which of these islands is the habitat of the bird figured on his plate VII. The adult specimen of our Sumba birds is very pale yellowish white on breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts and differs in this way considerably from our Timor birds as well as from those from Aru and Australia, while it agrees very well with Dr. Gadow's plate. Although I have no specimens from Flores, Lombok or Bali with which to compare those from Sumba, I feel much disposed to believe that the birds from all the islands west of Timor show the same peculiarities as our adult Sumba bird, and that, consequently, the bird figured by Dr. Gadow on plate VII, fig. 2, is not a Timor bird. The white, yellow-tinged breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts would, if my supposition be correct, be the distinguishing characters of a new species, having as habitat the Islands of Bali, Lombok, Flores and Sumba, and most probably Sumbawa, although there are no specimens of *Stigmatops* stated from this latter island as yet.

23. *Cinnyris pectoralis* (Horsf.).

Two unsexed, probably young birds, which are in some way different from all the numerous specimens representing this species in the Leyden Museum. They differ from the females and young birds in having the upper surface dull olive-green, without the yellowish tinge which characterizes the latter, while the lower surface does not show the rich yellow, being more greenish yellow than the latter. Moreover the head and neck are grayish olive, chin and throat olive-green. Wings and tail are as in *C. pectoralis*, the first however rather short, measuring only 4,8 cm., while the bill is rather longer than in most of our specimens from other localities, as it measures 2 cm.

24. *Anthothreptes malaccensis* (Scop.).

An adult female.

25. *Calornis minor* (Bp.).

An adult specimen, probably a female, on account of its crown being tinged with a purplish gloss.

26. *Munia quinticolor* (Vieill.).

Five full-grown young birds, different in color from the adult *M. quinticolor*, I consider to belong to this species, their measurements, as well as the size and form of the bill being precisely the same. The color of these five specimens is brown on the whole upper surface, and pale fulvous on the lower, this latter color being more strongly developed on the chest. The cheeks are marked with very narrow pale shaft-streaks.

27. *Munia nisoria* (Temm.).

Three adult birds and five young specimens, some of the latter in more or less advanced transitional stage of plumage. All these specimens differ somewhat from the true *M. nisoria* from Java, being sensibly smaller than the average size of the latter, and having the bill also smaller. In the coloration they approach very much the species *M. topela* in being less dark brown above than the Javanese birds, in having the upper tail-coverts and the middle tail-feathers tinged with green, and the feathers on the chest more minutely barred than *M. nisoria*.

Wing 4,8 cm., tail 3,2, tarsus 1,3.

The *Munia*-group which is characterized by a brown throat and dark brown-and-white ocellations on breast and flanks, consists of a few very closely allied species, the young specimens of which do not differ from each other at all. In his Catalogue of the British Museum, Vol. XIII, Dr. Sharpe recognizes only one species of this group: *Munia punctulata* from British India, including Ceylon, and extending eastward to Assam and Cachar, and the subspecies *M. subundulata* from the above mentioned region eastward to Cochin China, *M. topela* from Southern China, Formosa and Hainan, *M. nisoria* from the Malayan Peninsula and Java, and *M. cabanisi* from the island of Luzon.

Of these forms *M. subundulata* is hardly worth recognizing and might be united with *M. topela*.

Munia punctulata (L.), of which our collection contains five specimens, may easily be distinguished from all the allied forms by the fulvous tinge of the upper tail-coverts and central tail-feathers, which color is strongly yielding to golden yellow. The general color on the upper surface is brown, with a rufous tinge, the latter color prevailing on the front. Sides of face deep chestnut brown, getting paler towards the sides of neck and very sharply defined towards the chest. The rump is strongly barred with dark olive-brown, and the lower surface, with the exception of the uniform white centre of the body, strongly mottled with large white spots, forming well-distinguished, broad cross-bars on some feathers of the flanks. *M. topela* Swinhoe, with which I should propose to unite *M. subundulata* Godwin-Austen, is easily distinguished from *M. punctulata* by the much paler, more olive-brown tinge of the upper surface, by the very indistinct dark barring of the rump, the pale olive-green instead of fulvous upper tail-coverts and middle tail-feathers, by the want of the brown on forehead and sides of the face, the lesser extent of the brown color on the throat, and by the less large and less rounded white markings on breast and flanks, while the brown markings on both these latter parts are paler brown. The number of our Museum specimens, which I range in this subspecies, is 13, most of which are from Formosa, while a few are from Moulmein, Cochin China and China (*M. subundulata*).

The Javanese specimens, all belonging to *M. nisoria* (Temm.), agree with *M. punctulata* in the brown color of the upper surface, the dark double barring of the rump and the large white ocellations on breast and flanks, but differ from it in the larger extent of the brown on the throat, which reaches partly down upon the chest, not ending as abruptly as in the former species. The most distinctive character, however, is the color of the upper tail-coverts and the innermost tail-feathers, which is ashy gray with a very faint tinge of olive. This species is represented by twelve specimens from Java.

M. cabanisi Sharpe, from Luzon, is not represented in our collection, but there are six adult specimens from the island of Bourbon. The bird is found in a wild state on that island, but is said to have been introduced and is mentioned as *M. punctulata* by Hartlaub (die Vögel Madagascars, p. 403), while Sharpe states, in his Catalogue, the occurrence of *M. nisoria* on the island of Mauritius. Our specimens from Bourbon agree entirely with *M. nisoria* from Java, with the exception of the upper tail-coverts and centre tail-feathers, which are not ashy gray, but sensibly tinged with pale olive-green, in which character they agree with *M. topela.* They are, however, undoubtedly to be united with *M. nisoria.*

To *M. nisoria* also belong an adult and a young bird from the lake of Toba, Central Sumatra, collected by Dr. B. Hagen, though they seem to be in some way intermediate between it and *M. punctulata*, having the brown on the throat not extending as far down on the chest as in the Javanese bird. The immature specimens, mentioned by me in N. L. M. 1887, p. 71, with a query under the name of *M. punctularia*, will certainly also belong to *M. nisoria*, since Count Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, 1892, p. 31, refers the specimens from West Sumatra to this species.

28. *Sporaeginthus flavidiventris* (Wall.).

Three young specimens.

29. *Megapodius duperreyi* Less.

Megapodius reinwardti Wall. P. Z. S. 1863, p. 487

An adult specimen.

30. *Charadrius geoffroyi* Wagl.

An adult specimen.

31. *Numenius variegatus* (Scop.).

An adult specimen.

32. *Tringa minuta* Leisler.

Two specimens.

C. BIRDS FROM THE ISLAND OF ROTTI.

1. *Oreicola melanoleuca* (Vieill.).

An adult female.

2. *Rhipidura tenkatei*, n. sp.

Closely allied to *R. buruensis*, but differs principally in having the abdomen paler and the outer tail-feathers broadly tipped with white.

General color above dark slaty gray, somewhat tinged with olive-brown, crown and sides of the head much darker, a concealed patch of silky white feathers above the eye, wing-coverts like the back, the greater ones and the primary coverts tipped with dirty white, probably indicating a certain stage of immaturity, quills sooty brown, the secondaries on the outside very narrowly fringed and more broadly tipped with brownish white, upper tail-coverts glossy brownish black like the crown; tail black, the terminal third (2,3 cm.) of the outermost pair of tail-feathers pure white, which color occupies also the outer web and the shaft nearly up to the base, the second pair with an oval white terminal spot of the length of 1,5 cm., leaving, on the outer web, a black edge nearly reaching down to the tip, third pair with a wedge-shaped, narrow white spot at the tip, three innermost pairs uniform brownish black. Chin, throat and chest dark ashy gray, the first minutely, the two latter largely spotted with white on the centre of the feather, as is the case in *R. buruensis*; breast, abdomen and flanks very pale fulvous, under tail-coverts almost pure white, under wing-coverts dark ashy, broadly tipped with the color of the breast, inner edge of quills pale ashy, bill and feet black.

Wing 7,6 cm., central tail-feathers 8, outermost 7, culmen 1,6, tarsus 1,6.

Hab. Rotti. One specimen.

3. *Dicaeum mackloti* Müll. & Schl.

A young bird, probably a female, showing on the lesser wing-coverts some glossy feathers of the plumage of the adult stage; rump and upper tail-coverts lively orange-red instead of scarlet, probably from the influence of the alcohol in which it was preserved. Underneath uniform ashy white.

4. *Glareola grallaria* Temm.

An adult specimen.

5. *Himantopus leucocephalus* Gould.

Two specimens.

Leyden Museum, May 1892.

NB. Cf. NOTE XXXVII. The birds of Sumba by A. B. Meyer.